

SIXTY-SEVENTH  
**ASTMH ANNUAL MEETING**  
 Sheraton New Orleans and New Orleans Marriott | New Orleans, LA USA  
 October 28 – November 1, 2018

**Brace for Dengue**  
DIPHTHERIA: Why is it Back?

**“There will be epidemics...”**

**GUARANTINE WANTED as Yellow Fever spreads**

**FDA B Malaria**

**EBOLA: WORLD GOES ON RED ALERT**

**Death Toll Growing as Influenza**

**Parasite as 1,500 Die of**

**Success in Tests of Yellow Fever Serum Reported**

**Cholera Epidemic in Yemen Now Affects One Million People**

**ZIKA T ON DOOF**

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**Achieving an innovative and sustainable Performance-Based Financing program with the Introduction of Risk Based Verification and Skills Based Quality Assessments in Lesotho**

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**Abstract:**

In 2014, the Lesotho Ministry of Health (MoH) launched the Health Sector Performance Enhancement (HSPE) Project funded by the World Bank to improve maternal and newborn health by Performance-Based Financing. The project aims to enhance both the quantity of services in Health Centers (HC) and the quality of care in HC and District Hospitals (DH) by providing monetary incentives to health workers based on their performance. Due to the project’s success, it has been scaled up to all 10 districts in Lesotho since June 2018. The approach has shown promising results, notably increased staff motivation, added staff “ownership” of health services, as well as perceived quality of care and client satisfaction throughout the country. As an example, the average HC quality score increased from 71.4 in quarter 1 of 2017 to 81.7 in quarter 2 of 2018. However, questions remain regarding HSPE sustainability and real impact on critical maternal and child health indicators. Since the quality of care scores in all DH have improved considerably since the beginning of the project, the MoH and the University of Pretoria revised the Quality Checklists at DH level to ensure that the high scores truly reflect high quality of care provided to patients. The revised Checklists put greater emphasis on the evaluation of health workers’ clinical skills such as Essential Steps in Management of Obstetrics Emergencies and vignettes exercises. To further improve the project’s implementation and ensure its sustainability, a feasibility study was conducted in April 2018 and demonstrated a reduction in the high verification cost through the adoption of an innovative approach called Risk-Based Verification (RBV). This novel process applies different levels of verification to PBF payment request based on the likelihood of fraud and error in payment requests for a HC according to its history. Thus, HC at higher risk will be more frequently assessed than the ones at lower risk decreasing the periodicity and costs of verification. The RBV effectiveness and the impact of the revised Quality Checklists will be examined in the coming year of the project to ensure program success and sustainability.

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**Disclosures (Complete):**

**Response :** I did not indicate a conflict of interest.